

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A content information management apparatus comprising:

a collection processing unit which collects content information items ~~indicating attributes of contents~~ stored in different specific forms in storage devices connected to networks using different protocols, the content information items indicating attributes of contents;

a conversion processing unit which converts each of the content information items collected by the collection processing unit into content information of a standardized form; and

an output unit which outputs the content information of the standardized form converted by the conversion processing unit.

2. (Original) The content information management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the conversion processing unit includes a plurality of conversion processors which are provided according to types of the networks to be connected.

3. (Original) The content information management apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said collection processing unit comprises a plurality of collection processors which collect said content information items from the storage devices connected to corresponding ones of the networks.

4. (Original) The content information management apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising an information creating unit which creates information by unifying content information items of each standardized form output from each of the plurality of collection processors.

Claims 5-20 (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) A content information management apparatus comprising:

collection processing means for collecting content information items ~~indicating attributes of contents~~ stored in different specific forms in storage devices connected to networks using different protocols, the content information items indicating attributes of contents;

conversion processing means for converting each of the content information items collected by the collection processing means into content information of a standardized form; and

means for outputting the content information of the standardized form converted by the conversion processing means.

22. (Currently Amended) A content information management apparatus comprising:

a data processing unit operative under program control for:

(1) collecting content information items ~~indicating attributes of contents~~ stored in different specific forms in storage devices connected to networks using different protocols, the content information items indicating attributes of contents;

(2) converting each of the content information items collected by the collection processing unit into content information of a standardized form; and

(3) outputting the converted content information of the standardized form.

23. (New) The content information management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the collection processing unit periodically collects the content information items at predetermined times.

24. (New) The content information management apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

an inquiry receiving section which receives an inquiry for content information; and

a displaying section which displays a subset of the contents information items that meet requirements set forth in the inquiry received by the inquiry receiving section.

25. (New) The content information management apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the collection processing means periodically collects the content information items at predetermined times.

26. (New) The content information management apparatus according to claim 21, further comprising:

inquiry receiving means for receiving an inquiry for content information; and

displaying means for displaying a subset of the contents information items that meet requirements set forth in the inquiry received by the inquiry receiving means.

27. (New) The content information management apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the data processing unit is further operative under program control for:

periodically collecting the content information items at predetermined times.

28. (New) The content information management apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the data processing unit is further operative under program control for:

receiving an inquiry for content information; and

displaying a subset of the contents information items that meet requirements set forth in the inquiry received by the receiving step.